



# Nebraska Weather and Crops

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service

## Nebraska Field Office

100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Phone: 402-437-5541 E-mail: [nass-ne@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-ne@nass.usda.gov)

Access our reports via the Internet: [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

Mark Harris, Director



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**Agricultural Summary:** For the month of December 2006, mild conditions at the beginning proved to be good for livestock on corn stalks and bean stubble with little to no supplemental feeding needed. Producers were able to bale a large amount of corn and bean stubble. However, producers were concerned about future drought due to the lack of moisture. The end of the month saw completely different conditions with two large snowstorms that brought blizzard conditions across most of the state causing power outages and putting stress on both producers and livestock. The western half of the state received the brunt of the storms with reports of up to 26 inches of snow. The severe conditions made it hard for producers to care for livestock. Even though the moisture came rather harshly, it improved soil moisture profiles which had been abnormally dry to this point.

This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Regional Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at:

[http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Nebraska/Publications/Crop\\_Progress\\_&\\_Condition/index](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Nebraska/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/index)

**Weather Summary:** Depth of snow at the end of December averaged two and a half inches across the state, with the Northwest District reporting nearly eight inches. The entire state received at least a half inch of precipitation, with the South Central District reporting up to three and a half inches. Temperatures averaged above normal the first two full weeks and closer to average for the last two weeks. During the last week of the month, soil temperatures ranged from 29 in the Northwest District to 37 in the Southeast District.

**Field Crops Report:** **Wheat** conditions were virtually unchanged from last month and rated 1 percent very poor, 4 poor, 34 fair, 55 good, and 6 excellent. **Hay and forage** supplies rated 3 percent very short, 23 short, 72 adequate, and 2 excellent.

**Livestock, Pasture, and Range Report:** **Cattle and Calves** condition rated 0 percent very poor, 2 poor, 20 fair, 62 good, and 16 excellent.

**The following are comments from Nebraska's FSA County Executive Directors and County Extension Educators:**

### ***NORTHWEST***

KEITH/ARTHUR/GARDEN: Western Nebraska counties received anywhere from 12 to 26 inches of snow with freezing rain and wind both Wednesday and Thursday of last week. The moisture was much needed for winter wheat crops.

### ***NORTH CENTRAL***

HOLT/BOYD: Recent moisture was extremely important for the winter wheat, alfalfa, meadows, and pastures which went into winter extremely dry. The relatively mild and open winter, to this point, has been good for livestock producers who don't have any extra forage this year.

### ***NORTHEAST***

DAKOTA: A few cold snaps, but mostly an excellent winter for livestock so far. Corn stalks are being grazed for most of the period with little to no supplemental feeding to this point. An exceptional number of corn stubble and bean stubble bales were harvested this year in our county.

DIXON: The month of December has stayed open and mild creating excellent conditions for livestock. Cattle are still picking up feed in corn stubble. Producers should be well stocked on roughage for the balance of the winter. Working conditions have been excellent for outside winter projects.

THURSTON: So far the fall and winter has produced no measurable snowfall. This is good for cattlemen as the temperatures have been relatively mild also. Most fall fieldwork which was scheduled has been completed. What few wheat fields are planted in Thurston County were planted last and did not germinate well.

### ***CENTRAL***

DAWSON: Recent snow and ice have caused power outages and stress on man and beast. This past fall a huge amount of corn stalks were baled to feed cows this winter. The lack of pasture and the high price of alfalfa plus the availability of distillers grains drove this practice. Producers are busy with meetings, tax and financing decisions, input ordering, and marketing grain.

### ***EAST CENTRAL***

DODGE: Winter wheat looks good. Cattle continue to graze stalks.

YORK: Cattle have had full use of harvested fields until the storm of December 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> with over one inch of rain/freezing rain and one inch of snow with strong northerly winds. Hay supplies are adequate. A few farm equipment auctions scheduled for January and February. Some anhydrous ammonia was still being applied up to December 20<sup>th</sup> when one inch of rain fell.

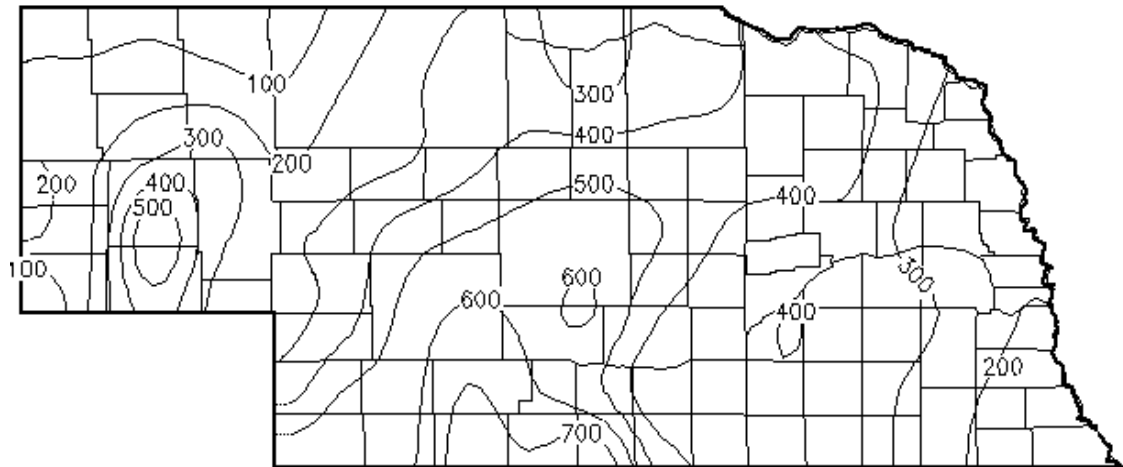
### ***SOUTHWEST***

PERKINS: Cattle are on stocks with supplemental feeding being done due to the snow. Winter wheat crop has good snow cover.

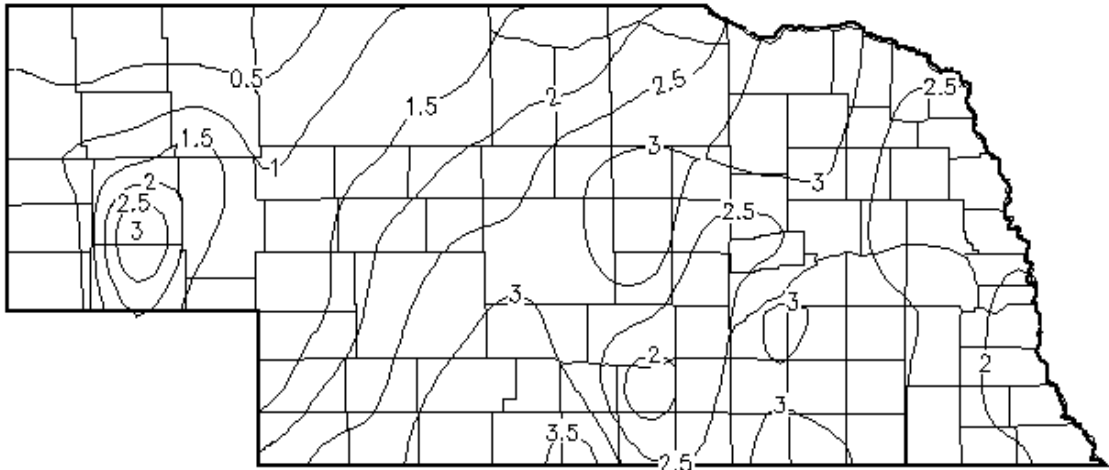
### ***SOUTH CENTRAL***

HARLAN: We received up to 1.7 inches of rain last week and very little snow and ice.

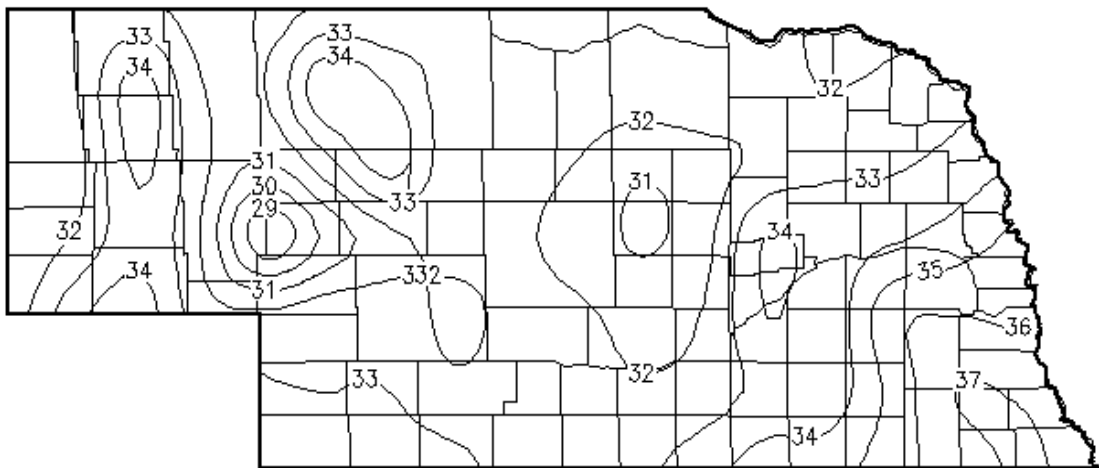
**PRECIPITATION AS PERCENT OF NORMAL FOR DECEMBER 2006<sup>1</sup>**



**PRECIPITATION IN INCHES FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER 2006<sup>1</sup>**



**SEVEN DAY AVERAGE TEMPERATURE AT THE FOUR INCH DEPTH UNDER BARE SOIL  
DECEMBER 25, 2006 – DECEMBER 31, 2006 <sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center and Nebraska State Climate Office